

## **Vaccine Identification Standards Initiative (VISI)**

### **Minutes of Conference Call**

**2001 January 10**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm EST**

#### **CALL PARTICIPANTS**

Bruce G. Weniger (moderator)	National Immunization Program/CDC
Bindi Patel	National Immunization Program/CDC
Bill Purvis	Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research/FDA
Fred Varrichio	Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research/FDA
Heather Schouten	Health Canada
Nick Giannakoulin	Health Canada
Bob Davis	University of Washington
Joanne Kim	American Academy of Pediatrics
Thomas Saari	American Academy of Pediatrics/Infectious Diseases
Ron Filipski	PFP Consultants
Julian Ritchie	Aventis Pasteur
Lori Easterday	Aventis Pasteur
Mark Schilling	Aventis Pasteur
Jayne Gilbert	Chiron Corporation
Tom Calabrese	GlaxoSmithKline
Irene Laverence	GlaxoSmithKline
James Mundt	Merck Vaccine Division
Mike Esposito	Wyeth-Ayerst
Sarah Fan	Wyeth-Ayerst
Lugene Maher	Wyeth-Ayerst
John Roberts	Uniform Code Council
Rick Schuessler	Symbol Technologies

## **SUMMARY**

### **Introductions**

Dr. Bruce Weniger welcomed all VISI participants, who identified themselves and their institutions in turn.

### **Online Barcoding Printing Technology Subcommittee**

Dr. Weniger briefed VISI participants about the history and purpose of the technology subcommittee, which consists of members from the manufacturing industry, hardware vendors, as well as the Uniform Code Council (UCC). This group has been commissioned to develop sample barcoding prototypes for primary and secondary packaging by working closely with the UCC. To date, the manufacturers involved include Merck, Aventis Pasteur, and Wyeth Lederle.

Mr. Roberts presented the results of a Reduced Space Symbology (RSS) pilot-test conducted at St. Alexis Hospital in Bismarck, ND. The pilot-test involved printing at least 1000 actual labels and conducting barcode scans to verify the printing quality. Peel-off stickers were also tested in an actual vaccination clinic for scannability with existing barcode readers.

### **Status of additional support for VISI**

Dr. Weniger informed the group that funds have been secured to engage an editor to oversee improving the text and organization of the VISI application guidelines content, and various textual prototypes, such as the Uniform Vaccine Administration Record (UVAR) form. The editor would also help plan, coordinate, and announce the public comment phase, and tabulate and organize the feedback.

Funds were also secured to contract with webmaster who will be working on reorganizing the design, organization, and functioning of the website containing the VISI materials. This will include a new logo and layout, and fine tuning the NDC database to improve the search results screen.

### **Discussion of specific VISI components**

#### **1. RSS barcode mockups for vial stickers**

Dr. Weniger said that the existing RSS mockups of barcodes superimposed on current actual vaccine labels still require revisions. These may include illustrating that the barcode and human readable NDC, lot number, and expiration date should be repeated on a portion of the label that

remains on the vial. New mockups might also illustrate multiple peel-off stickers partially superimposed on the label, exposing only their online-printed data.

## **2. Online barcoding of vaccine cartons**

Dr. Weniger also reported that the mockups for online printing on vaccine cartons would also need revisions to reflect the latest guidelines to use the UCC-EAN 128 symbol, rather than the UPC, and also to illustrate two options at each manufacturer's discretion: two separate barcodes (one preprinted with the NDC and one online-printed with the lot and expiration data) versus one online-printed barcode embedding all three numbers.

## **3. NDC database**

Ms. Bindi Patel had modified the NDC database by adding URL web addresses linking to the actual vaccine product insert, if available, at the manufacturer's website. He commented that not all manufacturers yet provide their product inserts "online" at their website, but that it was a great feature and would be a welcome service for the immunization community.

## **4. *Vaccine Facts* information sidebar prototypes**

As indicated on previous calls and in the VISI website, the CDC VISI coordinators plan to develop a new lexicon of standardized language for the *Vaccine Facts* sidebars, and to revise the existing mockups at the website (which were based on current language on vaccine cartons) to apply the standardized language to sidebars illustrating sample products from all manufacturers.

## **5. Vaccine and manufacturer abbreviations**

Dr. Saari asked about the status of the vaccine abbreviations. Dr. Weniger indicated little comment was coming in on all aspects of VISI, but criticisms of the subscripted "specifiers" had been received, but without any suggested alternatives for distinguishing various vaccines for the same disease. Dealing only with the handful of vaccines in common, routine use was a less challenging requirement than developing an abbreviation nomenclature useful for the hundreds of existing vaccines, and thousands of their variations (e.g., 2-component, 3-component, conjugate protein used, serogroup combinations, manufacturer identity, etc). He invited written comment and suggestions for alternative abbreviation systems and principles if subscripts were deemed inconvenient.

## **Next Steps**

- ◆ Another conference call was set for Wednesday, March 12, at 11:00 am North American Eastern Standard Time. The following call information will be repeated and distributed via email closer to the event:

Call name: VISI  
Date: Wednesday, 12 March  
Time: 11:00 - 1:00 am EST (8:00-10:00 am PST)  
Phone no.: [+1] 404-639-3277  
Toll-free in US: 1-800-311-3437  
Access Code: ##### [Deleted from website-posted document.]